In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following replacement paragraph:

--The present application is a divisional application of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/887,543, now U.S. Patent No. 6,800,870, for LIGHT STIMULATING AND COLLECTING METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STORAGE-PHOSPHOR IMAGE PLATES filed June 21, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. SAY1P004), which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/257,622 for LIGHT STIMULATING AND COLLECTING METHOD FOR STORAGE-PHOSPHOR IMAGE PLATES filed December 20, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. SAY1P004P), the entire disclosures of both of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 22, with the following replacement paragraph:

--According to various embodiments, the present invention includes implementations integrated into any standard size radiography cassettes as defined by international standard IEC 60406 (third edition), the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Specific examples of cassette dimensions include, but are not limited to, 14" x 17", 14" x 14", 10" x 12", 8" x 10", 35 cm x 43 cm, 35 cm x 35 cm, 20 cm x 40 cm, 18 cm x 43 cm, 13 cm x 18 cm, 13 cm x 30 cm, 18 cm x 24 cm, and 24 cm x 30 cm. As shown in various of the

figures and as described in IEC 60406, the thickness of such standard size radiography cassettes is limited to a maximum of about 15 mm (i.e., 0.59").--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 11, with the following replacement paragraph:

--Since very bright illumination can be easily achievable (multiple rows of high-power red LEDs), it is possible to reach full bleaching of the plate at only 10% of the direct stimulating light intensity. With a high amount of red-absorbing dye ~~die~~, the plate can be read out through its entire depth across a very narrow strip. This configuration is particularly useful for mammography imaging, which requires high resolution as well as high x-ray absorption (i.e., high DQE). It is therefore theoretically possible to achieve higher resolution across the mechanical scanning direction than across the direction of the linear CCD.--